

23. The electrical connector according to claim 14, wherein said gripping collar is fixedly attached to said body.

24. The electrical connector according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of gripping fingers are clamped onto the electrical conductor as the body cap is attached to the body.

Remarks

Claims 1-19 were pending in the subject application. Claims 1, 8, and 11 have been amended and claims 20-24 have been added by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are currently before the Examiner for consideration.

New claim 20 finds support at least at page 4, line 31 through page 5, line 3; new claim 21 find support at least at page 6, line 30 through page 7, line 11; new claim 22 finds support at least at page 5, lines 27-33; new claim 23 finds support at least at page 8, lines 22-30; and new claim 24 finds support at least at page 6, lines 16-20.

Claims 11, 14-15, 17-19 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 5,934,937. Attached with this Amendment is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(b) and 1.321(c), disclaiming, with exception, the terminal part of any patent granted on the subject application which would extend beyond the expiration date at the full statutory term defined in 35 U.S.C. 154-156 and 173, as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer of U.S. Patent No. 5,934,937. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 11, 14-15, and 17-19.

Claims 1 and 8 have been objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to address the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. Specifically, claim 1, line 9 has been amended to refer to "said cap" instead of "said body cap"; claim 1, lines 17-18 has been amended to refer to "said battery cable connector" instead of "said bottom terminal connector"; and claim 8 has

been amended to depend from claim 7 rather than claim 6. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests removal of the objection to claims 1 and 8.

Claim 11, line 10 has been amended to refer to "body cap" instead of "cap", in order to be consistent with term "body cap" in line 7.

Claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herrington. The applicant respectfully traverses this grounds for rejection. In particular, the applicant asserts that the Herrington reference does not teach or disclose each and every element of the subject invention as claimed in claims 11-12, 14-15, and 17. Claims 11 and 12 are directed to an electrical connector comprising: a body cap ... having an opening, said body cap having a compression collar rotatably mounted through said body cap opening and sized to fit over an electrical conductor passing therethrough In contrast, the Herrington reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest an electrical connector comprising a body cap ... having an opening, said body cap having a compression collar rotatably mounted through said body cap opening and sized to fit over an electrical conductor passing therethrough... . Rather, the Herrington reference teaches an electrical connection comprising: ... a nut ... having an enlarged conical chamber ... and wedge members (pinching members) carried concentrically within the chamber. Accordingly, where the subject compression collar of claims 11 and 12 is sized to fit over an electrical conductor, the pinching members 30 disclosed in the Herrington reference are not a collar sized to fit over an electrical conductor, but are a plurality of separate members carried within the nut's chamber which must be in a certain orientation within the nut to allow an electrical conductor to be inserted between the pinching members 30.

Furthermore, it does not appear that an electrical conductor can pass through pinching members carried within the chamber of nut of the Herrington device. Instead, it appears that an electrical conductor would be obstructed from passing through by inwardly projecting shoulders 31 (see page 1, lines 83-89). Although the Herrington reference does not appear to give a specific function for shoulders 31, it appears shoulders 31 may contact head 22 in order to help to keep

pinching members 30 spread apart to allow an electrical conductor to be inserted between pinching members 30.

In addition, claim 12 of the subject application is directed to an electrical connector as claimed in claim 11 in which said compression collar has a flared end portion to hold said compression collar in said body cap from one end thereof. Again, the Herrington reference does not teach a compression collar. Furthermore, pinching members 30 do not have a flared end portion to hold the pinching members 30 in nut 25 from one end thereof.

Claims 14-15 and 17 are directed to an electrical connector ... comprising: ... a gripping collar having a plurality of gripping fingers. Again, in contrast, the Herrington reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest an electrical connector comprising a gripping collar having a plurality of gripping fingers. Rather, the Herrington reference teaches pinching members 30 engaged loosely within the reduced opening 27. Pinching members 30 of the Herrington device are not a gripping collar having a plurality of gripping fingers, but a plurality of separate members.

Therefore, the Herrington reference does not teach each and every limitation of the subject invention as claimed in claims 11-12, 14-15, and 17. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-12, 14-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barth in view of Britain '156. The applicant respectfully traverses this grounds for rejection. The Office Action states that the Barth reference discloses a battery cable connector comprising a body (15) having threads formed thereon and having an electrically conductive prong (14) attached thereto. However, the wedge (14) taught by the Barth reference is not attached to body (15). Instead, wedge (14) taught by the Barth reference is separate from body (15). Page 1, lines 49-72 of the Barth reference describes how the wedge (14) and body (15) are to interact. In particular, wedge (14) forces member (18) of the conductor against the inner side of sleeve (10), and then sleeve (10) with members (18) and wedge (14) is positioned relative to cap terminal (15) and the outer threads (12) meet threads (16) of cap terminal (15). As sleeve (10) is threaded, head (17) of wedge (14) is

forced against surface (18) at the inner opening of the cap terminal. Accordingly, the device taught by the Barth reference functions in a different fashion than the subject invention as claimed in claims 1-6, 9-15, and 17-19.

Specifically, as described at page 1, lines 49-72, members (18) of the conductor are first positioned in sleeve (10) and wedge (14) forces members (18) against the inner side of sleeve (10). When sleeve (10) is threaded into the cap terminal (15), the engagement of rounded end (17) of wedge (14) with the cap terminal further drives wedge (14) between members (18) which serves to hold members (18) tighter against sleeve (10) to make good contact with cap terminal (15). In contrast, the subject invention as claimed in claims 1-6, 9-15, and 17-19 utilizes a compression collar, or a gripping collar, and a cap, or a body cap, respectively, which attaches to the body of the connector such that the compression collar grips and holds the conductor to the body, or the gripping collar secures the conductor to the connector, respectively. The applicant does not see how such a compression collar or gripping collar could be incorporated with the Barth connector without fundamentally altering the way the Barth connector functions. Therefore, there would be no motivation to incorporate a compression collar or gripping collar with the Barth device.

The Office Action points out that the Barth reference does not teach or suggest a compression collar, but states that the Britain reference discloses an electrical cable connector for electrically connecting a cable (12) to a conductive prong (10) provided with a compression collar having a plurality of gripping fingers (15) and a flared end for retaining the collar within a cap (14). However, the sleeve (15), shown in the Britain reference having fingers, is cooperatively associated with sleeve (16) so as to make an annular space between them and functions to engage casing (12) between sleeve (16) and sleeve (15). Sleeve (16) is positioned between sleeve (15) and the conductor (11) and does not compress. There is no indication in the Britain reference that sleeve (16) and sleeve (15) serves any other function than holding the outer metal casing (12), which it would appear needs to be isolated from the spark plug. This is supported by the embodiment shown in Figures 4 and 5 which incorporates an unsplit sleeve (18). There is no suggestion that sleeve (15) be used alone without sleeve (16). In fact, the Britain reference teaches the use of both sleeves (15) and (16) even when

no annular space is to be left between them. In particular, page 2, lines 97-102 of the Britain reference states that sleeve (16) and sleeve (15) can cooperate without leaving the annular space, with the only consequence being that the metal casing (12) would not extend beyond the adjacent end of sleeve (16). Therefore, there is no suggestion or motivation to incorporate sleeve (15) from the Britain reference into the apparatus taught in the Barth reference and, in particular, no suggestion or motivation to incorporate sleeve (15) without sleeve (16).

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-15, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

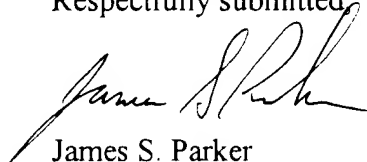
Claims 7-8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barth in view of Britian '156 as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Gourley *et al.* The Office Action states that Barth in view of Britain '156 discloses the claimed instant invention except an electrical conductive prong having two ends. As discussed above, the applicant asserts that the Barth reference in view of the Britain '156 reference does not disclose the claimed instant invention except an electrical conductive prong having two ends. The Gourley *et al.* reference does not cure this defect. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

The applicant believes that, in view of the above amendments to the claims and the accompanying remarks, the current claims are now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Petition and Fee for Three-Month Extension of Time;
Terminal Disclaimer;
Amendment Transmittal Letter

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